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21 May 1967

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Papers Requested by the President

1. At about 1515 today the Director called me to relay the President's direct request for three papers to be delivered by noon Tuesday, 23 May. The papers are on the following topics:

a. An Appraisal of the Effects of Closing Haiphong harbor and the raillines into NVN. (From the tone of the conversation the President seems to be disappointed by the lack of significant results from the recent increase in the bombing of NVN and is quite concerned about the increase in the aircraft losses we are taking. He obviously wants an objective assessment as background before making any decision on increasing or decreasing the bombing of the north.)

b. An Appraisal of the Effects of our Bombing of NVN during the last two months. (I told the Director that ORR had just completed a paper on the effects of the bombing for the first four months of this year. He said we needed to prepare another paper, perhaps by "repackaging the most recent paper, with more detail.")

c. How the people in NVN feel after all the bombing? (This one is very hazy. The President is puzzled by the various statements that the NVN will can be maintained or even increased with all the destruction and casualties the bombing has caused. The Director said to "get our experts -- psychologists, economists, etc. -- to consider this problem.")

2. There are two more points connected with paragraph c above. First, the Director had called me Saturday morning to day on a request from the President that came through Walt Rostow. This request was for an assessment of the effects of the bombing on the morale of the North Vietnamese (both government officials and populace). The Director made it clear in our Sunday conversation that item c above is in addition to the morale paper. I talked this over with [redacted]; we agreed it would probably be better to include item c above as a separate section of the morale paper.

[redacted] will have [redacted] in Monday morning and talk to him about contributing to item c. Second, the Director evidently called [redacted] Sunday at about the same time he talked to me. As a result of this call a DDPER showed up in the Ops Center with several questions. One of these questions was about our estimates of NVN

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casualties and NVN claims about their casualties.

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3. I called [redacted] into the office to discuss items a and b above. He will have some people in tonight to start work on these items as well as a paper on NVN casualties, estimated and claimed.

4. In sum, we have four papers in the works for the President:

- a. The Effects of Closing Haiphong and the raillines. (ORR)
- b. The Effects of the Bombing of NVN during the last two months. (ORR)
- c. Morale in NVN, including a section on how the North Vietnamese feel. (OCI)
- d. NVN Casualties, estimated and claimed. (ORR)

All of these papers will be delivered to the President by noon on Tuesday, 23 May.

EDWARD V. PROCTOR

SECRET